

Mexico Mérida Movement Week of May 3-7, 2010

- **MERIDA:** The FY09 LOA was signed by SRE and the Embassy on May 4, allowing post to begin using FY09 Merida funds.
- **NIIE-SSP/SAT:** NAS met with SAT and SSP to review and validate the FY-08 and FY-09 requirements. SSP and SAT are drafting a Strategic Plan based on operational requirements to identify the equipment and assistance requirements for the next three years.
- **Culture of Lawfulness:** The number of Mexican states providing regular culture of lawfulness (CoL) education to their school students continues to increase. Five new states are among the 23 states that submitted proposals to the Federal Secretary of Education (SEP) to offer a 120-hour CoL course during the 2010-2011 school year. Mexican educators trained by the National Strategy Information Center worked with state secretaries of education in developing the proposals. The Federal SEP is expected to announce which proposals have been approved by the end of May.
- **CANINE:** The first brick was laid for the SSP's National Canine Academy. This Academy will be capable of training approximately 100 canine teams a year in narcotics and firearms detection. Merida Initiative support for this Academy will be in the form of equipment, training and veterinary supplies and canines.
- **AVIATION:** ODC confirmed that a contract has been signed for an additional 2 Bell 412s for SEDENA for delivery in Oct 2010. Also, pending final configuration details and contract signing, the 4 CASA 235 maritime surveillance aircraft will be delivered by the end of 2011.
- **JUDICIAL REFORM: Interview and Interrogation Course (OPDAT):** 10 PGR and 10 SSP officials completed an intensive two-week Interviewing and Interrogation course in Colombia. Participated were divided up into 4 groups and traveled to 4 different cities in Colombia. There, with their Colombian counterparts, they learned how to conduct effective interviews and interrogations so as to be able to develop evidence, and identify leads in an investigation. The 20 Mexicans were then re-united in Bogota where they received specialized training. The next group of 15 Mexicans will depart for similar training on May 10, 2010.
- **JUDICIAL REFORM: Child Exploitation Conference (OPDAT):** DOJ/OPDAT, ICE and USAID jointly trained 50 Mexicans on the investigation and prosecution of child exploitation cases. The training covered all aspects of these unique crimes: physical examination of children, forensic interviews, computer evidence, how to deal with common defenses, the presentation of such cases in court, sentencing, sex offender registration, and the benefit of working cooperatively with other law enforcement agencies and NGO's.